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**WEARE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
April 7, 2008**

PRESENT: TOM CLOW, CHAIRMAN; HELEEN KURK, SELECTMAN; WENDY CLARK, VICE CHAIRMAN; RICHARD W. BUTT, SELECTMAN; KEITH R. LACASSE, SELECTMAN

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Fred Ventresco

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cherry Palmisano

GUESTS: Chief Richards, Chief Begin, Tina Pelletier, Joe Fiala, George Malette, Harry Brown, Jon Osborne, Frank Campana, Rob Wilson, Carl Knapp, William Straw, Shawn Hawkes, Alicia Walker, Christine Hague, Steve Najjar, Anna Brunelle, Mary Martin, Andy Fulton, Jane Snyder, Lisa Johnson

7:00 p.m. Chairman Clow called the meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Joe Fiala informed the Board there is a meeting scheduled on Tuesday, April 15th at 6:00 p.m. at WMS regarding the skate park. Mr. Fiala asked the Selectman if they want to continue to lease the skate board pad from the school for \$1. If so, Mr. Fiala asked the Selectman to create the agreement and finalize it with the school. Chairman Clow asked if it would be located in the area fenced off next to the baseball field. Chairman Clow said the skate park was moved to Ineson with the understanding that they could not be moved to another location. There is an area designated for the skate board park at the WMS, unfortunately there is no equipment at this time. Mr. Fiala is asking for the Selectman to lease the land.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to lease the area for the skate park from the school. Passed 4-0-0.

Selectman Butt asked who would maintain the area. Mr. Fiala said if there is a PARC Director then they would be responsible.

Selectman Butt asked about fundraising. Mr. Fiala would like to get the pieces made by the Voc Tech, which includes John Stark students. Selectman Butt asked about Ineson equipment. It was discussed that PARC asked the Selectman to remove that equipment ASAP.

Mr. George Malette informed the Board he has applicants for the Agricultural and Heritage Commission and asked the BOS if they had any questions for him. The volunteer forms are due back on April 18, 2008. Mr. Malette is the VP of the Agricultural Committee. Mr. Malette said there are 2 other volunteers interested in alternate positions. Mr. Malette asked the BOS not to hold it against him that he is on many committees; he actively participates and attends all meetings he is a member of.

2. DEPARTMENT HEADS – Ms. Tina Pelletier gave the Selectman revenue reports from January-March and total only expenditure report. Ms. Pelletier has a voucher for \$19,401 to be moved from the Conservation Commission to the General Fund for payments made on their behalf. A voucher for \$97.50 to be moved from the Conservation Unrestricted Fund to the General Fund for flags for ATV usage. A voucher for \$24,000 from the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund for monies paid towards Protection of NH Forest. A voucher for \$2,149.85 to be moved from the Police Drug Forfeiture Fund to the General Fund (\$11,000 in this fund with no restrictions for use other than overtime). Selectman Butt asked about training meals and food. Chief Begin said

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generally the meals are used during drug training classes. Ms. Pelletier said there are monies being taken from the General Fund for \$578.18 to Drug Forfeiture Fund for a vehicle that was sold at auction. There are 2 engineering escrow accounts, 1 account closed and the other had vendors paid \$7,996.46 total for both. To be given to Trustees, cable TV and fire dept communications totaling \$12,000.

Ms. Pelletier discussed NHMA and contacting Jim Crane at the SAU. Chairman Clow said there is a bill, House Bill 1465 coming before the Senate relating to NH retirement system. This bill will affect newly hired employees. Chairman Clow discussed what it would cost the Town of Weare and the school if it passed or did not pass. If this bill does not pass it would cost the town an additional \$66,000 per year. If the bill does pass it would cost the town \$5,400. The school district would be paying an additional \$80,000 if the bill does not pass, which does not include John Stark.

Ms. Pelletier commented on the General Fund balance, she said the auditors are not moving quickly. The rough draft for 2006 shows \$976,000 (this is not cash it is fund balance and does not include the \$124,000 from the state in 2008 – flood control money going back to 2006). It is not undesignated but goes on the revenue sheet. Chairman Clow said there is \$1,100,000.00 in the fund balance; minus the remainder of the bridge bond which was for \$1,000,000.00.

Chairman Clow opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

3. PUBLIC HEARING – For the purpose of hearing public testimony and comment on the request for a Discretionary Preservation Easement, per RSA 79:D, filed by Alicia R. Walker for property at 152 Mt. Dearborn Road, Weare, NH 03281.

Chairman Clow said this RSA allows the Town of Weare to give an easement or obtain an easement in exchange for a reduction of the amount the property is taxed for. Chairman Clow said they have a letter from Avitar stating they reviewed the Walker barn. Avitar stated there was much work being done on the barn and assessed the barn for \$33,800. The law allows the Selectman to put a value range of 25% to 75% on the barn. Chairman Clow said the easement does not do anything with the barn but the homeowner has to agree to maintain the barn for a 10 year period. Selectman Lacasse asked if the easement lasts for 10 years. Ms. Alicia Walker said it lasts for 10 years and then has to be reapplied for in 10 years. Ms. Walker said they have lived there for 45 years and the barn has been in very bad condition since then. She had work done in the basement of the barn and had drywall done. Ms. Walker said she has also had carpentry work done on the barn as well and still has more work to be done and is hoping to receive a break on her taxes. Selectman Butt said he did drive by the barn and said it is beautiful. Selectman Butt said typically people apply for the easement before the work is done. Ms. Walker said she had no idea this option was available to her. Selectman Butt said it certainly does meet the definition. Ms. Walker said the house is 230 years old but this is not the original barn because the original burnt in 1913; they salvaged some of the materials to reconstruct the barn.

Mr. Malette said he is speaking on behalf of himself, not the Historic Society. He is in favor of this Preservation Easement. Mr. Malette said this barn does not really have a purpose or agricultural use; therefore it has a lower assessed value so they should aim towards the 75% reduction in assessment.

Vice Chairman Clark commented on the 10 year lease being over and the land being sold and asked what would happen with the easement. Ms. Walker said the easement will go with the new owner and after 10 years the application would have to be renewed. Mr. Malette said he is unsure because it is a Discretionary Preservation Easement. Ms. Walker said all her land is in a Conservation Easement.

Chairman Clow closed the public hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Selectman Lacasse asked if there was an valuation on the barn before it was repaired. Selectman Butt said it was \$20,261 before the repairs were done. Selectman Butt said a small section of land was included in the assessment. Selectman Butt said they have 60 days to act on this after the application is submitted. Chairman Clow said the application was received on February 22, 2008 and recommends the Board act on this tonight.

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Selectman Butt said the tax on the barn was \$306 per year and with the new assessment it increases \$207 to total \$513 per year. Chairman Clow was thinking about using the previous assessment which would be 40% reduction in the current assessed value. Chairman Clow commented on many barns in the Town of Weare falling down and feels it is important to preserve the town's history. Chairman Clow said the amount of taxes collected on the property would not go down and they would collect taxes on the property the same as before renovations. Selectman Lacasse asked about the percentage. Selectman Butt said it would be a reduction of 40% to take it down to the evaluation of the barn before it was repaired. Selectman Butt commented that the easement being applied for after the renovations was not done intentionally. Selectman Butt would like other conditions taken into consideration and is recommending a 60%-75% reduction. Selectman Butt said there has been thousands of dollars spent on renovations and much more needs to be spent. Selectman Butt said this does not add up to a lot of money over a 10 year period. Selectman Butt proposes a 60% reduction. Chairman Clow said Selectman Butt is recommended it be based on 40% of the new assessment which would be \$13,600._

Selectman Butt moved to grant a Discretionary Preservation Easement to tax map 408 lot 45 as written on application at 60% off of the current assessed value of the barn.

Motion was withdrawn.

Chairman Clow said they need to decide to keep it at the same assessment before the renovations or bring it lower.

Selectman Lacasse moved, Chairman Clow seconded to assess the barn at 60% of the new value of the barn. Failed 2-2-0.

Selectman Lacasse feels people should not have to pay more for preserving an old building. Selectman Butt said the easement does restrict what can be done to the building. Selectman Butt feels the renovations were done to benefit the community not the homeowner.

Vice Chairman Clark moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded, to assess the barn at 50% of the new assessed value. Passed 4-0-0.

4. DEPARTMENT HEADS – Chief Richards would like to know if they should be continuing to spend on paramedic intercepts; he would like the Boards approval to still use the intercepts. If they are out on a call and the patient's condition worsens, they have to intercept a paramedic from Concord at a charge of \$400-\$500. Chief Richards said they do bill for their skills, money does come back to the town but does not go back into that fund._Chairman Clow asked if this requires a yearly vote. Chief Richards said no, but they are required to get approval for spending._Chief Richards would like to request funds for hose testing, has to be tested annually to bring their department in compliance. Chief Richards needs the Boards permission to seek proposals. Chief Richards commented on the electrical repair bills. Mr. Ventresco said they were trying to get the funds out of the Building and Maintenance Fund. Chief Richards said they had breakers that kept popping. It became a real issue because they had to plug in extension cords for the vehicles; this was a safety issue that needed to be repaired. Mr. Ventresco told Chief Richards to submit the bills on the necessary forms to Ms. Pelletier and submit to the Board for approval. Chief Richards said there are 2 separate bills. Selectman Butt asked if any of these were issues noted from the Fire Marshall. Chief Richards said no, they had the Building Committee review them. Chairman Clow said the form needs to have the requested amount as well as the balance of the fund and would like the appropriate process followed for all requests. Chief Richards commented on the mold issues in the bay and it is getting worse and needs to be taken care of; this is a bearing wall for the safety complex that has mold. Chief Richards will get the balance of the fund and submit the appropriate forms.

Chief Begin said they received a letter thanking the Department for their assistance in a domestic issue in town.

Chief Begin said he met with Chief Richards and Carl Knapp because they feel the Board is going down a path that is disturbing to them with micro managing their departments. Chief Begin commented on the spending restrictions being placed on them, when in the past they have controlled their spending. They feel the Board

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does not trust their judgments and there is a lack of support from the Board. Chief Begin commented on the Board not supporting the need for additional life safety personnel and their lack of support. Chief Begin said if there are questions regarding bills please contact him directly to get it answered.

Mr. Carl Knapp said he does agree with Chief Begin. Mr. Knapp said if there are questions on any of his budget items please ask.

Mr. Knapp commented on the skate park and the fact that PARC wants the skate park removed at Ineson as quickly as possible. Mr. Knapp said he is concerned because he went to private people and a company in town that provided materials and funds in the fall to put the skate park there.

Mr. Knapp said they did receive the state funds for 2007 flood damage; \$8,000, which will go into the Undesignated General Fund balance. Mr. Knapp said he has numerous bids and needs to schedule future awarding at a meeting. Mr. Knapp said in the proposed budget they had loader tires and grader tires with the budget not passing he risks further damage. He had proposed \$17,000 in the Proposed budget on tires. Vice Chairman Clark said the tires are a necessity to run the department; the Board needs to know what is spent even though it is a necessity. Mr. Knapp said these are expensive tires, feels they should have been in the default budget as well. \$7,000 for 6 tires for the grader, which will not be able to be used without new tires. Mr. Knapp said the loader can wait a couple of months.

Chairman Clow said the whole spending resolution has got disjointed. He originally made the motion because they were faced with large expenses in the Highway Department, so they put this motion on the table asking all departments to hold spending for 30 days because they were unsure if they needed to utilize funds from other departments. Chairman Clow said this was not to take away any decision from Department Heads, just to hold spending for the Board to determine what could be done. Chairman Clow said he does not think the perception should be that they are trying to micromanage the departments. Chairman Clow said they will come back to this discussion.

Vice Chairman Clark said they did not intend for the spending restriction to imply that they did not trust the department heads. She said they did not intend that at all, it is the Board being proactive on spending until they see exactly where the budget is once all the information comes forth. Vice Chairman Clark said she is unsure if they are allowed to go a person with an individualized question, she thought it had to be a decision of the Board. Chairman Clow said he feels any Board member has the right to go to any Department with issues concerning spending. Chairman Clow said they do have to act on any Manifest that is in front of them.

Mr. Knapp said there is a bunch of guardrail that needs to be replaced, it is part of road reconstruction and he has the funds to do this. Mr. Knapp said they have used a company from New York in the past that installs used guardrails. Mr. Knapp said it is half the cost, just not shiny new, but perfectly safe. Mr. Knapp said this would not go out to bid to install the used guardrail. Mr. Knapp needs approval from the Board to not put this project out to bid. Chairman Clow asked Mr. Knapp if he was clear on the tire issue. Mr. Knapp said he wanted to make the Board aware of the upcoming expense.

Mr. Harry Brown would like to give the Board perception of what the public is looking at and commented on Mr. Knapp looking for money for tires that the town needs. Mr. Brown said a few weeks ago the Board approved \$24,000 for purchasing land. Chairman Clow said the \$24,000 was private funding. Mr. Brown said it is up to the Board to get the money for the tires.

The Board agrees not to go out to bid for the guardrails.

5. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to approve the minutes from March 17, 2008 as amended. Passed 4-0-0.

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Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to approve the minutes from March 31, 2008 as amended. Passed 4-0-0.

6. MANIFESTS

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign Manifest and order the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurer to sign checks dated April 10, 2008. Passed 3-0-1.

Accounts payable	\$90,225.28	
Second Payable run	\$157.37	
Fire Monthly	\$7,132.07	(includes Quarterly Stipends)
Gross Payrolls	<u>\$49,607.45</u>	(includes Credit Union, Taxes)
Total	\$147,122.17	

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to enter into non public session at 8:53 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 (b). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes, Vice Chairman Clark – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes, Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non public session at 9:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes, Vice Chairman Clark – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes, Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non public session. Passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Knapp recommends William Straw be hired at \$9.50 per hour for the Transfer Station.

Selectman Lacasse asked if this position was in the default budget. Mr. Knapp said it has been a vacant position that has been open.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to hire William Straw as a Level 1 attendant at the Transfer Station at a rate of \$9.50 per hour. Passed 4-0-0.

This is not a new position but a current position that is currently being filled by a truck driver at a higher rate.

Ms. Jane Snyder said there is a balance of \$1,247,323.16 which takes into account last weeks manifest; not this weeks. Ms. Snyder said they started with \$978,000 last April; so they are ahead. Weare School District is sending vouchers quite often and she wants to make sure this does not continue to happen. John Stark will be requesting \$118,000 to be drawn next week. Ms. Snyder does not feel they will need a TAN but would like to have one in place as a precaution.

Chairman Clow asked of this amount how much cash is on hand. Ms. Snyder said this is actual cash, not fund balance. Vice Chairman Clark said that seems high. Chairman Clow said this will keep our cash flow so the town might not need a TAN.

7. CONSERVATION COMMISSION – Mr. Andy Fulton, Chair of Conservation Commission said the Commission is looking at 2 vacancies; John Ciampi and Tom Carr will be stepping down. Would like this solicited on the Cable Channel. Mr. Fulton is requesting reappointment. They do not have an Ex-Officio position on their Commission. Mr. Fulton said the Conservation Commission is a resource for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Fulton said some of their major commitments this year are the conservation easement on the Brown Farm, work on building Abijah Bridge and moving forward on natural resources inventory. Mr. Fulton said they are closing in on a new website and will update the Board when it will be available to the public. Mr. Fulton said they will need the Boards approval to move forward on the Grauer Property Donation, 6 acre parcel, exclusively beaver ponds, landowner did ask the town if they wanted to purchase, the town did not want to purchase, landowners contacted the town on possibly donating the land. Mr. Fulton said this will add to abutting land already designated as Conservation land. \$14,100 is the current assessed value and taxes are \$226 per year. Mr. Fulton asked for the Board's support to accept this donation. There will be attorney fees to close

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on this land; the Conservation Commission Fund will cover these fees. Selectman Butt thought from a management standpoint it is hard to manage small properties. Mr. Fulton said there will be no trails through the property because it is wetlands. Mr. Fulton said the property adds a part of a wetland system with value being maintained as a beaver pond and to say that it couldn't be developed, he has not made that conviction. This land is across the street from where they have other conservation land and this land feeds into Lake Horace. Mr. Fulton does not envision any restrictions or active management just a continuation of passive management.

Vice Chairman Clark is not sure of the benefit to the town. Chairman Clow said if it stays in private ownership they cannot do anything to the land and it will stay in the same state. Mr. Steve Najjar said in terms of wetlands, it is unsure if it is developable or not. Whether the town owns it or not, it is wetlands, the town could choose to manage the land with beavers in there. As a Conservation Commission they determine species on town land not on private property. Mr. Najjar said this land is in a focal location to the Russell land. Mr. Najjar said even though the land is dissected by Rt. 14, it is beneficial land. Mr. Najjar said if you look at the tax impact, it does bring in \$200 per year, but those landowners could choose not to pay their taxes anyway. Mr. Najjar said he would be puzzled if they did not accept the donation of this land as a benefit to the town. Vice Chairman Clark asked if the land would require insurance. Mr. Najjar said in the State of NH there is limited liability if there is no charge for access.

Selectman Lacasse asked if they could go on the land and determine species. Mr. Najjar said they would not want to spend the money on it. Mr. Najjar said there are no other costs associated; they make money from forestry as well. Selectman Butt said he feels Mr. Najjar is correct that the landowner will likely dump the land anyway. Selectman Butt feels the town should just accept the property. Mr. Ventresco said back in June 2007 the landowners attorney sent a letter requesting to purchase the land, but the town would be interested if they wanted to donate the land to the town. In February 2008 the letter came in stating they would like to donate the land. Selectman Lacasse asked if they could contact the landowner to see if they could contribute towards closing costs.

Mr. Malette asked if the letter came from the BOS. Mr. Ventresco said the letter was from the Conservation Commission, there was no commitment on the town's part to accept the land. Mr. Ventresco said the letter stated that the Board expressed no interest in purchasing the land; however the Conservation Commission did express interest in the land being donating.

Selectman Butt asked if the Board feels they should ask to contribute towards closing costs. Mr. Najjar said that is not setting a good precedence, we have told the landowners that this land is worth \$14,000 you can't ask them to contribute towards the closing costs, this is a donation. Mr. Najjar said the Conservation Commission has a fund set up for these purposes.

Selectman Butt moved, Chairman Clow seconded to accept the donation of lot 88 tax map 407 with any closing costs coming from the Conservation Commission. Passed 3-0-1.

Chairman Clow said if they don't accept this donation now, then in the future when the land would be taken for non payment of taxes; it would cost the town more money in legal fees.

Mr. Najjar said there was a warrant article to assist in some of the funding for this project approximately \$555,000. Mr. Najjar said the Hawkes property is 70 acres and the Wilson property is 80 acres; these groups of parcels about the Wood Conservation Area. Mr. Najjar said the average price per acre is \$3,000 and currently they have \$476,000 available in the Conservation Fund. Mr. Najjar said he is working with some outside funding sources. They are having an appraisal done on the properties. Once they find out if they can make up the short fall for funding they will come to the Board for approval.

Selectman Butt said he knows Mr. Wilson very well, feels he can be objective, but wants the Board to decide if he should be recused from the discussion. Chairman Clow said there is no action to be taken from the Board at this time. Mr. Najjar said the Conservation Commission makes the decision on the spending. The Board decided

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no decision was needed at this time. Mr. Najjar asked the Board if they need the Board's approval to accept donations to the Conservation Commission. A public hearing would need to be held.

8. CONSIDERATION OF SUGAR AND SPICE LEASE – Chairman Clow said they agreed upon a 1 year lease. Mr. Ventresco said there was an issue with not getting it approved for more than 1 year. It went to Town Meeting and it was decided to grant a 3 year lease. Chairman Clow said the warrant article passed and it gives the Board the right to have a lease signed for a 3 year period. Chairman Clow said the lease agreement does mention a savings account. Ms. Mary Martin said the savings account was mentioned to insure Sugar and Spice had funds available for maintenance on the building. They have current proof of insurance. Selectman Butt said the lease states that it will cost \$1,500 per year. Selectman Butt commented on the lease stating a Capital Reserve Fund with a restriction on the town to not increase. \$50.00 per month goes into a savings fund. Selectman Butt commented on the statement about the building being connected to the well. They receive no bill for water, just sewage. Selectman Butt said there is a condition that states they will contribute to the testing of the water. Mr. Knapp thinks it is costs about \$400-\$500 a year for water testing. Mr. Knapp said the water is tested at least quarterly. Chairman Clow said if it was never enforced then take the line out. The Board agrees to strike the line that states leaser will contribute to water testing. Selectman Butt asked how they arrived at the lease payment; what was the process. Ms. Martin said they have been paying \$125.00 a month for at least 10 years. Chairman Clow said there is a benefit to the town because Sugar and Spice maintains the building. Chairman Clow feels the modest sum of rent payment is not unreasonable. Selectman Butt is questioning how the number was determined. Ms. Martin said in 1974 it cost them \$1 per year to lease the building.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to approve the lease as amended. Passed 3-0-1.

9. AWARDING OF BID FOR NEW TRUCK FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT – Mr. Knapp said this purchase was approved at Town Meeting. Mr. Knapp said 3 sealed bids came in for the Chassis. If ordered tomorrow, it won't be in until September. They don't have to give their truck for trade until the chassis comes in; they will install all the equipment themselves. Mr. Knapp recommends the low bid. The warrant article included \$65,000 for this truck with plow equipment and \$145,000 for the excavator.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Butt seconded to accept the low bid from Liberty Chevrolet, Wakefield, MA for \$37,750.00 after trade allowance. Passed 4-0-0.

Mr. Knapp said the revenue for the transfer station is up \$20,000 from last year at this time.

10. AWARDING OF BID FOR POLICE CRUISER – Chief Begin said they put out a bid for a cruiser and to replace the Expedition. They received bids from Unique, Hillsboro, and Grappone Ford. Chief Begin compared the bids and recommends Grappone Ford with a bid of \$24,563 for the Expedition and \$23,762 for the Crown Vic with a 5 yr / 75k mile and a total of \$48,325 to purchase 2 vehicles from Grappone. There is enough in the fund to equip these vehicles.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to accept the bid from Grappone Ford with a total of \$48,325 for a Crown Vic and a Ford Expedition. Passed 4-0-0.

11. FOLLOW-UP ON FIRE MARSHALL'S REPORT – Mr. Ventresco said they will know more by the end of the week. Chairman Clow asked if there has been any progress in the items that they thought could be done themselves. Mr. Ventresco said the food in the food pantry had been moved. Mr. Ventresco commented on the need to label the electrical panels and clear egress paths. Chairman Clow wants an actual check list. Mr. Ventresco said some things that seem simple could be more complex. Mr. Ventresco said in the near future they will need to hire a certified Master Electrician, as recommended in the report. Mr. Ventresco said they should go in order of priority on the Fire Marshall's list. Mr. Ventresco said some of these items could be handled if the Town of Weare had a full-time maintenance person. Selectman Butt asked what the Fire Marshall's thoughts were on the sprinkler system. Selectman Lacasse said the Fire Marshall commented that the building was not large enough to warrant the sprinkler system. Chief Richards commented that it would require a 10,000

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gallon water tank that could be buried. Mr. Ventresco said they need to wait to see what comes back in the report. Selectman Butt asked Mr. Ventresco to speak with the Fire Marshall after the report comes in. Selectman Butt said the Town Hall issues don't seem to be as severe, as long as no people go up to the second floor. Chief Richards said they need to get someone to look at the fire alarm system at the Town Hall. Selectman Butt asked about the Highway Barn. Mr. Ventresco said the Fire Marshall targeted 6 items at the Town Hall in the 2000 report. Chairman Clow said they need to make some decisions on the Highway Garage. Selectman Butt asked what takes priority. Chief Richards said there is a difference between the Town Hall and the Highway Garage because one is a place of assembly and the other is a storage place. Selectman Butt asked if these things require professionals. Chief Richards said they need to make sure the second floor staircase is enclosed with a fire rated door.

Mr. Malette discussed things that need to be done at the Highway Building and stated that the Building committee will be meeting tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. Chairman Clow said they will be looking to the Building Committee to put forth recommendations for the Highway Building. Mr. Malette hopes to work together with Carl Knapp, Chief Richards and the Building Committee.

12. DISCUSSION OF SPENDING RESTRICTION RESOLUTION – Chairman Clow said he had this put on the agenda for clarification purposes. Chairman Clow said when he originally made the motion he did so because of the Highway Budget and decisions that needed to be made. Chairman Clow said they were unsure if they needed to look into other budgets to get the needed funds for the Highway Department. Chairman Clow said after speaking with Mr. Knapp he realized they did not need to look into other budgets. Chairman Clow said they need to look at what will get them through the year. Selectman Butt commented on Mr. Ventresco being on the front end of the employee's complaints. Mr. Ventresco said he thinks he laid out the memo as close to what he thought the Board determined. Mr. Ventresco said he commented when the spending freeze was put forth that the Department Heads are always careful with their spending. Selectman Butt said he did not think it was imposed that Department Heads had to go through Mr. Ventresco. Chairman Clow said the restrictions are there because of the default budget not just because the spending restrictions.

Selectman Butt commented on supplies being ordered in bulk to save money. Selectman Butt commented on some of the pent up issues with departments could be with the Board not recommending additional fire or police personnel. Chairman Clow said they need to back up the process and get details earlier in the process then it would be easier for the Board to support these articles. Vice Chairman Clark commented on it being helpful to her to have the New Boston Chief come before the Board. Selectman Butt said if they are not getting the answers they need then someone needs to take the initiative to go get the answers.

Mr. Ventresco mentioned that DRA does not like the idea of them coming to them so early in the year requesting funds. Mr. Ventresco mentioned keeping a close eye on things and looking ahead for the need to arise. Mr. Ventresco said he has his justification for the request already prepared. Selectman Lacasse asked if it made sense to go to all Departments to ask them where things could be cut. Chief Richards said the problem is that they did that last year as well. Selectman Butt said last year they over spent the legal line by \$40,000 and commented on inconsistencies in how the Board determines the Default Budget. Selectman Butt commented on Selectman Kurk saying in August 2006 you cannot put increases in fuel in the Default. Selectman Butt said there is not a big enough difference between the Proposed Budget and Default Budget. Selectman Butt feels they should meet with Department Heads and let them vent before things simmer too long. Selectman Butt says they don't want to overreact and say that don't have enough money in the budget for the year and he knows there is a situation in the Highway Department. Selectman Butt would like to schedule a meeting with all Department Head's.

13. ADOPTION OF PRIMEX BEST PRACTICES/PRIME PROGRAM – Mr. Ventresco said this is the first step to show they are moving forward on obtaining Prime Program with Primex. The renewal date is

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September. Mr. Ventresco said he has an action plan from Primex. Mr. Ventresco said Primex wants them to look at the lighting equipment which will require a professional.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to adopt the Prime Program for Best Practices from Primex. Passed 4-0-0.

14. MAKEUP OF BENEFIT REVIEW COMMITTEE – The Committee should be made up of 1 Department Head, 2 employee representatives, member of Finance Committee and 3 members of the general public. Chairman Clow said at a public hearing they could change the make up of this committee. The need for members will be advertised on the cable channel.

15. TOWN HALL RENTAL USAGE – COMMERCIAL USE – Vice Chairman Clark said she thought they left this in Mr. Ventresco's hands. Mr. Ventresco said he told the individual the facility was not for commercial use and that he did not have the authority to grant permission for commercial use. Mr. Ventresco feels he would have made the exception in this case. Mr. Ventresco said during the use there would be an attorney present and a member of CATCH; this is to help people with foreclosure issues. Selectman Lacasse asked why they would exclude commercial usage from the Town Hall if these people are taxpayers in the Town of Weare. Mr. Ventresco said it is a general rule not to allow use of town property for commercial usage. Chairman Clow said when something like this comes before Mr. Ventresco and he questions it then he should bring it before the Board.

Vice Chairman Clark moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to allow Tami Pelletier Real Estate LLC to give a free homeowners seminar on May 13 at the Town Hall. The sign cannot have their name on it, just state time and date and event. Passed 4-0-0.

16. DRAFT OF TOWN PURCHASING POLICY

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Butt seconded that the Draft of the Town of Weare Purchasing Policy be passed onto the Town Administrator and Finance Administrator for their review. Passed 4-0-0.

17. APPOINTMENTS TO LIBRARY TRUSTEE

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to appoint Paul Marsh and Jill Tacy as alternate Library Trustees. Passed 4-0-0.

18. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – Mr. Ventresco said they purchased Merry Rice's computer; it was previously agreed to spend \$850.00. They did go over in price; the total is \$1,041.50 which is to come from the Computer Maintenance Fund. Ms. Rice was trained on the computer for all new software.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to expend an additional \$200 for computer, installation and necessary parts for a computer for the BOS secretary to come from the Computer Maintenance Fund. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to accept the resignation of Jim Thompson from the Weare Economic Development Committee with regret. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow thanked Mr. Thompson for all his efforts.

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to accept the resignation of Joan Couhie from the Benefit Review Committee with regret. Passed 4-0-0.

Chairman Clow informed the Board they received a notice to have all voting done at WMS instead of CWES.

Chairman Clow said they received a letter from Douglas Cook. Chairman Clow does not want to set precedence in reading everything into record because of a request to do so. This letter is aimed at Chairman Clow; the Board agreed to read the following letter.

Weare Board of Selectmen

FINAL

Please read the following into the record of the April 7, 2008 Board of Selectmen meeting. I hope the Board will reconsider the self-appointment of Selectman Clow to the Weare Planning Board as ex-officio. I do not believe that the ex-officio position on any board was to be held by the same Selectman year after year. It is a position to let all Board members experience the different roles that various boards serve and also serves as a communication conduit between them.

I do not believe that Mr. Clow is serving in the best interest of the entire town, only his own and a select minority. One example of this would be his recent vote while serving as ex-officio on the Planning Board. He initially voted to deny a new business to operate in a commercially zoned section of town. I also believe he is not fulfilling his role as a communication conduit between the boards. I have not observed or read in the minutes that Mr. Clow is continually sharing information between the BOS and the Planning Board.

It was very interesting to watch Mr. Clow as the last BOS meeting before the Town Vote, plead to voters of Weare that we need to adopt their budget and warrant articles. Mr. Clow, you cannot have it both ways. The taxpayers are not an endless source of revenue. If you cannot control spending, then we need some commercial development as an offset. I am not saying we need to become Manchester by any means, but certainly there are creative ways to strike a balance and still let business into this town to help defray the increasing costs.

Sincerely, Doug Cook

Chairman Clow said he would like to respectfully address two issues in this letter and read the following statement.

The first issue relates to the Planning Board. At the March 17 BOS meeting I did state that I would like to remain on the Planning Board; however, in so stating I actually thought I was doing the other Selectmen as a favor, since the Planning Board is the most time consuming assignment other than the BOS itself. With that said, I certainly don't want to take the opportunity away from someone else. If there is another Selectman who wishes to serve on that board, please let me know prior to our next regular meeting, and we will let this group as a whole decide who to appoint.

The second issue relates to my position on certain issues. I certainly will not apologize for voting to protect the historic character of our villages and the adjacent area. Nor will I apologize for voting to conserve land for future generations. If I decide to run for reelection in 2009, the voters will have the opportunity to judge my performance.

Selectman Butt said he looked up the Land Use RSA 673:5 and it states: except as provided in subparagraph (b), the term of any ex-officio member serving on a local land use board shall coincide with the term for that office.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Clow encouraged the Board to utilize the training opportunities from LGC.

Selectman Butt said in regards to the Mildred Hall and Eastman Fund \$50,000 is for the Town Hall and Clinton Grove Academy also has \$50,000 with the BOS as agents to expend. Selectman Butt referred to Article 16 which talks about 3 members recommending projects for the funds. Selectman Butt wants to work cooperatively with the committee to identify things that need to be done. Selectman Butt said there is \$800,000-\$900,000 in this fund. Mr. Ventresco will schedule a meeting with the Mildred Hall Committee.

The Board discussed that the Manifest meeting on April 28th will also be a Department Head meeting.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to enter into non public session at 11:52 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 II (a & c). A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes, Vice Chairman Clark – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0.

FINAL

Chairman Clow moved, Selectman Lacasse seconded to come out of non public session at 12:07 a.m. A roll call vote was taken, Selectman Butt – yes, Vice Chairman Clark – yes, Selectman Lacasse – yes Chairman Clow – yes. Passed 5-0-0.

Chairman Clow moved, Vice Chairman Clark seconded to seal and restrict the minutes of the non public session. Passed 4-0-0.

20. ADJOURNMENT

A True Record.

Cherry Palmisano, Recording Secretary